



# Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

## *Performance Audit*

## *Office of Professional Preparation Services*

## *Department of Education*

Report Number:  
31-140-02

Released:  
August 2004

*The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) is responsible for ensuring that a person employed in an elementary or secondary school with instructional responsibilities has a valid credential for the position held. OPPS is also responsible for ensuring that professional school personnel complete quality teacher preparation and professional development.*

### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess OPPS's effectiveness in providing leadership to help ensure quality teacher preparation and continuing education programs.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that OPPS was somewhat effective in providing leadership to help ensure quality teacher preparation and continuing education programs.

### ***Reportable Conditions:***

Our assessment disclosed reportable conditions related to the use of test results to evaluate effectiveness, teacher education program review and approval, the Periodic Review and Program Evaluation Process, reporting of Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) pass rates, teacher professional development, State Board of Education continuing education unit (SB-CEU) programs, and the new teacher induction/teacher mentoring process (Findings 1 through 7).

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### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of OPPS's certification process.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that OPPS's certification process was somewhat effective and efficient.

### ***Reportable Conditions:***

Our assessment disclosed reportable conditions related to issuance of special permits, applicant certification credentials, and the teacher certification status Web site (Findings 8 through 10).

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### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess OPPS's effectiveness in ensuring that all public and nonpublic schools comply with certification statutes.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that OPPS was not effective in ensuring that all public and nonpublic schools complied with certification statutes.

***Material Conditions:***

OPPS needs to take a more proactive role in helping to ensure that teachers and other licensed school personnel with criminal convictions are reported to the Department as required by law (Finding 11).

The Department, in conjunction with the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), should coordinate efforts to ensure that school districts report accurate and complete school district educational personnel data (Finding 12).

The Department did not have a process to verify that school districts employed certified teachers and to identify "out-of-field" teaching assignments (Finding 13).

***Reportable Condition:***

Our assessment also disclosed a reportable condition regarding nonpublic school teacher certification (Finding 14).

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***Agency Response:***

Our report contains 14 findings and 16 corresponding recommendations. The Department's preliminary response indicated that it agreed with 9 recommendations (Findings 2 and 8 through 13) and partially agreed with 5 recommendations (Findings 1, 3, and 5 through 7). The Department's preliminary response also indicated that it disagreed with 2 recommendations (Findings 4 and 14). CEPI's preliminary response to Finding 12 indicated that it would continue to work with the Department and OPPS to improve school districts' reporting.

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A copy of the full report can be  
obtained by calling 517.334.8050  
or by visiting our Web site at:  
<http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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